Claims 1-17 (canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) A method for mass producing synthetic closures for use in sealing fluid products in a container having a portal formed in the neck of the container, said closure comprising at least two different hues integrally formed therein, said method comprising the steps of:

A. adding the desired plastic material for forming the synthetic closure into an extruder, said plastic material comprising at least two components having different hues,

B. melting the plastic material at elevated temperatures and pressures into a polymer melt;

C. aggressively mixing the blowing agent into the polymer melt to assure thorough dispersion therein and plasticization thereof;

D. passing said plasticized polymer melt through an extrusion die for forming an elongated continuous, foamed, substantially cylindrical rod having the desired diameter for use as a synthetic closure; and

E. controlling the passage of said components having different hues through the die to produce elongated, substantially continuous streaks of one hue extending through the second hue; and

F. arcuately pivoting the elongated continuous foamed rod along the central axis thereof for forming elongated continuous sinusoidal streaks in said rod;

whereby a synthetic closure is mass produced having a visual appearance which closely emulates closures formed from natural products.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A method for mass producing synthetic closures for use in sealing fluid products in a container having a portal formed in the neck of the container, said method comprising the steps of:

A. forming a foamed plastic polymer in an extruder by passing the polymer through an extrusion die, ~~and~~

B. expelling the exiting foamed plastic polymer from said die into a plurality of mating casting members for forming a plurality of interconnected foamed products in a continuous extrusion process[[;]], and

C. cutting the interconnectd, foamed products into separate, individual products by employing cutting tools incorporated between each pair of adjacent, mating casting members;

whereby individual products, each having any desired size and shape, are capable of being extruded in a continuous operation.

21. (Original) The method defined in Claim 20, wherein said mating casting members define a product forming zone when in interengaged relationship with each other, thereby receiving the exiting foamed plastic polymer and forming said foamed plastic polymer in the precisely desired configuration for the final product.

22. (Original) The method defined in Claim 21, wherein said plurality of mating casting members are further defined as comprising at least two casting members cooperatively associated with the extrusion die and constructed for being moved into and out of alignment therewith, for receiving the exiting foamed plastic polymer and forming the desired product.

23. (Original) The method defined in Claim 21, wherein said plurality of mating casting members are further defined as comprising two separate, cooperatively associated, adjacent elongated lines of interconnected casting members, with each casting member of each line being constructed for mating cooperative interengagement with one, juxtaposed, spaced, cooperating casting member of the adjacent line, with said lines of interconnected casting members being positioned for receiving the foamed plastic polymer exiting the extrusion die, forming the desired product by mating interengagement and maintaining said formed product in said mated casting members until said product is completely formed.

24. (Original) The method defined and Claim 23, wherein each of said elongated lines of interconnected casting members are constructed for being in continuous motion with each member of each line of casting members continuously moving in a closed loop.

25. (Original) The method defined in Claim 24, wherein each of said elongated lines of interconnected casting members is further defined as being constructed for continuous rotational movement at identical speeds and positioned in juxtaposed, spaced, cooperating relationship for enabling a plurality of members of each of said lines to remain interengaged with each other during said rotational movement.

26. (Original) A method for mass producing synthetic closures for use in sealing fluid products in a container having a portal formed in the neck of the container, said method comprising the steps of

A. adding the desired plastic material for forming the synthetic closure into an extruder;

B. melting the plastic material at elevated temperatures and pressures into a polymer melt;

C. injecting carbon dioxide as a blowing agent into the polymer melt in its supercritical phase;

D. aggressively mixing the carbon dioxide blowing agent into the polymer melt to assure thorough dispersion therein and plasticization thereof; and

E. passing said plasticized polymer melt through an extrusion die for forming an elongated continuous, foamed, substantially cylindrical rod having the desired diameter for use as a synthetic closure;

whereby a highly effective synthetic closure is mass produced having all requisite attributes.

27. (Original) The method defined in Claim 26, wherein production of said closure utilizes a screw or screws which provide for plastification of the polymer without imparting excess shear/heat to the formulation, while providing the requisite mixing, both distributive and dispersive, and the required pumping and cooling of polymer mixture, while generating pressures needed to solubilize the carbon dioxide blowing agent in the polymer and maintaining the carbon dioxide in its supercritical phase.

28. (Original) The process for the production of the synthetic closure defined in Claim 27, wherein the carbon dioxide is delivered to the extruder by employing dual cylinder syringe pumps, mass flow meter and computer feedback loop for volume/pressure control, back pressure regulator, and cooling systems for all pumping components.

29. (Original) The method defined in Claim 28, wherein the carbon dioxide is injected into the polymer melt using an insulated injector, thereby achieving cell density, size, and structure required for the final product.